

Listing of Claims

1. (currently amended) A flexible, reclosable package for containing a product and allowing the product to be subjected to a retort process while within the reclosable package, comprising:

a pair of side panels joined along a first side edge and a second side edge, the side panels defining a mouth providing access to a package interior, wherein the side panels are formed from polypropylene; and

a reclosable zipper positioned along the mouth of the package for selectively opening and closing the package mouth, the reclosable zipper including a first closure profile attached to the first side panel and a second closure profile attached to the second side panel, wherein the first and second closure profiles are each constructed and arranged to interlock each other to hold the mouth in a closed position, wherein the reclosable zipper is formed from polypropylene, the polypropylene of said first profile and said second profile having a melt index of between about 1.7 g to about 3.5 g and a density of between about 0.895 g/cm³ to about 0.910 g/cm³.

wherein the first closure profile includes a sealing flange having a sealant, wherein the sealant of the sealing flange is attached to the second side panel opposite the first closure profile during the retort process to provide a hermetic seal between the

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sealing flange and the second side panel, wherein the sealant is a polypropylene-based sealant having a melt flow value of between about 5.0 g to about 9.5 g and a density of between about 0.85 g/cm³ and 0.93g/cm³.

2. (Original) The reclosable package of claim 1 further comprising a line of weakness positioned between the sealing flange and an attachment flange of the first closure profile, wherein the sealing flange separates from the attachment flange along the line of weakness and remains attached to the second side panel of the reclosable package upon initial opening of the reclosable package.

3. (canceled)